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THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN ARCHITECTS
WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS
BUILDING CONGRESS OF WISCONSIN



Williamsburg, Virginia

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Glass Masonry

Williamsburg, Virginia

THIS IS THE SECOND OF TWO ARTICLES BY
RICHARD PHILIPP

Williamsburg drifted down the current of history for a hundred years or so without much change, other than that its houses and college buildings slowly and gracefully developed into antiques. Then there appeared upon the scene a man who had imagination and who could see with his mind's eye what the one time capitol of the Commonwealth of Virginia could be developed into; who saw the little old dilapidated village restored to much of its earlier charm. He knew its history so well that he knew just what the old town looked like, and this man had not only the vision, but the will to do and the energy to carry out what his imagination pictured. This man was Dr. Goodwin, rector of Bruton Parish.

About the time Dr. Goodwin began to think on architectural lines, and began developing his ideas of restoration, fate stepped in. Or perhaps fate had been standing by all the time, just waiting for this psychological moment. At any rate, one of the old buildings, I believe it was the Parish House, needed architectural help. It was at just that moment (was it fate or Lady Luck who had him by the hand?) that an architect, on sight-seeing bent, happened along and met Dr. Goodwin, who told him about his need for help. Promptly the architect offered his assistance, without thought of gain or further work. I understand it was just a very minor problem, the changing of a window or something like that. This obliging architect was Mr. Perry of

Perry, Shaw & Hepburn, and so this firm came into the scheme. And it was a lucky day for Williamsburg when this happened, as all will agree who have seen the town in its present state.

So far the main stock in trade of the project was enthusiasm and imagination, two powerful enough forces, but still were lacking the funds to carry out the scheme. So Dr. Goodwin took his plans to Mr. Rockefeller, who could supply the means if he would. It is quite evident that the sincerity and the enthusiastic presentation of the problem finally induced Mr. Rockefeller to give the whole matter careful consideration. After viewing the entire scheme from every angle, Mr. Rockefeller decided to furnish the necessary funds, and the work began in good earnest. Well, that was a good beginning; but between that beginning and the Williamsburg of today lay a good deal of effort: years of research; many months of work without any apparent results, when the workers seemed just to be marking time. And it was probably at this stage of the work that the patience, the sympathetic understanding and the constant encouragement of Mr. Rockefeller showed up at its best. Without such help the problem just couldn't have been solved so successfully as it finally has been solved. Every possible praise and appreciation are due Mr. Rockefeller.

After thorough research to find out just what the old Williamsburg really looked like, the ideas of Dr. Goodwin, as interpreted by the plans of Perry, Shaw & Hepburn, slowly took shape and the actual work of construction began. It would really take too much space to go fully into detail regarding the amount of work that had to be done before actual working drawings could be made. The results obtained, however,

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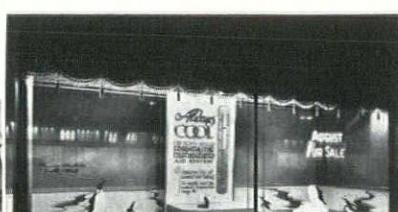
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justify all the effort expended in obtaining them. The city was restored to its original plan wherever that plan had been departed from. The buildings of later times that were out of harmony with the spirit of the original work were removed. Other buildings that had been part of the original city, such as the Raleigh Tavern, but had disappeared were painstakingly rebuilt. Others that had been altered were restored to their original form.

To be sure, the new buildings, such as the Governor's Palace and the Capitol, are quite obviously new. They are, however, honestly and well built and will last a long time, and in due time will mellow with age and eventually, no doubt, acquire the beauty, the subtleness of color and softness of texture, of the Parish House itself, than which there is none more beautiful.

The gardens of the Governor's Palace already have great charm, and will acquire more with age. Many of the gardens of the original houses needed little if any restoring, and have the charm that only age and sympathetic care can give.

The Court House Green, the Palace Green, the Market Square, and the broad Duke of Gloucester Street leading to the Capitol, give to the city a spaciousness and a tranquil air that is rarely if ever found in modern towns.

Architecturally there does not seem to be a discordant note in the entire city. All the architecture is done in the Virginia Colonial, which is the style of the original buildings. It is very satisfying to note with what care and study the detail inside and outside of all the new buildings was carried out.

The color schemes of the interiors, the walls, wood-work and draperies are exceedingly pleasing and based on sometimes very slight, but authentic evidence found here and there among the old work.

Considering the historic ground on which the city is situated and its environment, the charm and beauty of the city itself, and the fine old plantations in its immediate and also remote neighborhood, Williamsburg stands a good chance of becoming the Mecca of those who are interested in the historic, those who are interested in the beautiful, and those who are still just interested in America. There will be many. Let us hope it won't be too much for the good Williamsburgers.

Glass Masonry

Although glass has been associated with human life since the early dawn of history, its most rapid development and extension into universal use in an infinite number of forms has occurred within the last half century.

Probably the most revolutionary application of glass is the recent development of glass blocks which in less than one year have gained wide acceptance in the building industry. Architects and builders see in this new material great possibilities to stimulate new building and modernization of existing structures, because it affords fascinating new architectural design together with utilitarian advantages that are not available in any other type of building material.

Aside from their unique decorative properties, glass blocks have the advantages over other materials in light transmission without transparency and insulation against both heat and cold. In addition, glass block walls and partitions eliminate costs for added materials such as plaster, paint and wall paper, as well as maintenance costs. Once installed, glass blocks need no further attention for there is no deterioration in this material.

Offering an entirely new style trend with accompanying utility advantages, glass blocks are attracting keen interest in every state in the union. Home owners and apartment house operators to whom "four walls and a roof" mean more than merely shelter from the elements, recognize this translucent glass masonry as a new medium for more gracious living. Industrialists see in this new material great savings in construction and more economical maintenance of industrial plants and at the same time more pleasant working conditions for their employees.

Available in numerous patterns, these glass blocks, developed after years of scientific research, serve a dual purpose. They offer variance in wall design and fuse the outdoors with the indoors by transmitting daylight in almost any quantity wanted.

For ages man has had to resort to solid walls to provide privacy within his sheltered abode and in so doing shut out daylight. But, with this new glass masonry—translucent, but not transparent—walls can be more than just places to hang pictures and to hide objectionable outside views, such as an alley or commercial building. They can be striking expanses of water-clear glass blocks that admit an abundant flow of soft, diffused

(Continued on page 6, col. 2)



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The State Association of Wisconsin
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The Building Congress of Wisconsin
Wisconsin Chapter, The American
Institute of Architects

LEIGH HUNT, Editor
152 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee

JOHN S. HOLBROOK, Publisher
724 E. Mason Street, Milwaukee

Published Monthly Subscription, \$1.00 per year
Address all communications for publication to
Editor at 152 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee.

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Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Executive Board of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects, Held with District No. 8 at the Nelson Hotel, Racine, Wis., on June 19, 1936, at 7:00 P.M.

The following members of the Executive Board were present: Messrs. Eschweiler, Brielmairer, Kirchhoff, Potter, Lippert, Berners, Herbst, Brust, and Seidenschwartz.

The following members were represented by proxy: Messrs. Scott, Buemming, Tullgren, and Stubenrauch.

The following members were absent: Messrs. Peacock, Auler, and Hunt.

The following members of the Racine District No. 8 were present: Messrs. Mickelsen, Wright, Hammes, Chase, Russel, Noth, Mullin, Augustine, and Hoffman.

After partaking in a well-served luncheon, the members of the Executive Board and of the Eighth District called a recess to listen to a national sporting event on the radio, which was very much enjoyed by all those present.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mickelsen of District No. 8, welcoming the Executive Board to Racine. After a splendid talk by Mr. Mickelsen, the meeting was turned over to President T. L. Eschweiler.

Mr. Eschweiler called upon Mr. Edgar H. Berners, the State Association's representative to the National Convention of the American Institute of Architects, to give his report. The following is Mr. Berner's report in detail:

"REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION GROUP AT THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS CONVENTION, 1936, AT OLD POINT COMFORT, VIRGINIA.

The meeting was called by Mr. Fugard of the Illinois Society of Architects. Represented at this meeting were the State Societies of Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida, Minnesota, Michigan, California and Wisconsin. Of these, only California, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin are affiliated with the Institute.

Mr. Fugard was elected chairman of the meeting, and Mr. Purvis of Pennsylvania was elected secretary.

The State Association of California presented a resolution commending the Institute for its interest in promoting the development of State Societies and requested the Institute to continue this activity.

Voting on this resolution was limited to the delegates of the societies affiliated with the Institute and was unanimously adopted. The purpose of the resolution as presented by the State Association of California was to counteract a resolution to be presented by a group representing the Southern California Chapter of the Institute, which resolution proposed that the Institute sever its relations with all State Societies and that these State Societies be permitted to function without aid or guidance of the American Institute of Architects. The entire purpose of this last mentioned proposed resolution was not entirely clear but resolved itself about a difficulty existing between the Northern California and Southern California Chapters of the Institute.

The representative of the Minnesota State Society

at this point opened a discussion of the desirability of the formation of a National Association of State Societies. This discussion found no active support and the matter relative to the formation of a National Association, independent of the American Institute of Architects, was dropped.

A resolution was then presented by your delegate, requesting the Institute to change its by-laws to permit a State Association to select its delegate without restriction to corporate members of the Institute. This resolution met with the support of the assembled group and was passed. The discussion then centered about other corrections in the by-laws, particularly with a view in mind of correcting the by-laws so that the objection that the Illinois Society and New York Society found in these by-laws, could be removed and thereby permit these two groups to affiliate with the Institute. The result of this discussion was the presentation of a resolution by Mr. Kohn of New York, that no change be made in any of the by-laws relating to State Societies for the present year but that the Institute appoint a committee composed of a member representing all State Societies of record not affiliated with the American Institute of Architects, a second member representing the affiliated societies, and a third member representing the American Institute of Architects, the chairman of this committee to be a representative of the State Societies affiliated with the Institute. The purpose of this committee to be the study of the by-laws relating to State Societies with the end in view of amending or correcting all of the by-laws so that certain objectionable features would be eliminated and thereby permit other State Societies to affiliate with the Institute. This resolution was then referred to a committee composed of Mr. Kohn and a representative of the Southern California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and a representative of the Northern California Chapter, who also was the representative of the California State Association. This committee then edited the above resolution and presented it at an adjourned meeting of the State Associations group. This resolution was unanimously adopted and so reported to the Institute Convention.

In view of the adoption of this resolution, the two previous resolutions presented by California and by Wisconsin, were withdrawn. No other business was transacted.

The group discussion that followed dealt with the activities of the several State Associations and also with the methods used to raise funds to conduct the activities of the State Associations. Most of the Associations represented depended largely for their funds upon membership dues. The experience of other State Societies in the collection of membership dues, even in states where the dues are as low as \$1.50 per member, was no better than that which we experience in Wisconsin. The State Association of California apparently is the best financed Association in the group. Their principal source of revenue comes from the building report service maintained and operated as a separate corporation and controlled by the architects group. This activity has enabled California to accumulate a fund of approximately \$25,000. Illinois and Michigan both acquire additional funds beyond membership dues through the issuance of a handbook in which advertising space is sold. Minnesota was making an attempt to secure funds

through the sale of exhibition space to manufacturers in connection with their annual state convention. Michigan reported that they had tried a similar method of raising funds but found this to be entirely unsatisfactory.

The remainder of the time was devoted to the discussion of points that were purely local in nature.

No attempt will be made to report on the business transacted at the Institute Convention, as this no doubt will be available in printed form in the Octagon.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) E. H. BERNERS."

Mr. Berners suggested to the State Association that the districts be advised to elect their advisors in due time before the annual State Convention so that they will be properly represented.

A motion was made by Mr. Brust and seconded by Mr. Seidenschwartz accepting and commending Mr. Berners on the wonderful and most complete report submitted as delegate to the National Convention of the A. I. A. The motion was adopted.

President Eschweiler called for a motion to dispense with all other business of the Executive Board and to turn the meeting back over to the Eighth District. Motion was made by Mr. Lippert, seconded by Mr. Brust. Motion was adopted.

Mr. Mickelsen then called upon Mr. Augustine of Kenosha to explain to the Executive Board the architects' situation relative to the work being done by engineers employed by the City of Kenosha.

Mr. Augustine stated that the City of Kenosha at the time of the C.W.A., employed him to make sketches for proposed public buildings in the City. Since the close of the C.W.A. program, this work of designing public buildings and the designing of other buildings is being done by an engineer in the employ of the City of Kenosha. Mr. Augustine stated that, in his opinion, this work was being done in violation of the State Architects' and Engineers' Code. He also stated that they were violations of the building code, poor design, and other irregularities. Mr. Augustine asked the Executive Board's advice of the stand he should take and what disposition the Executive Board would make in this matter. Committees were made by Messrs. Eschweiler, Brust, Kirchhoff, Hoffman, and Mullin, asking Mr. Augustine to collect all the information that he could possibly get so that proper steps could be taken by the Executive Board with the State Board of Examiners, with the Industrial Commission, and the Attorney General.

Mr. Hoffman made a report on the work of the Racine District Practice Committee. Mr. Potter reported on the affairs of District No. 6 in the City of Madison. He stated that their district was having regular meetings, they were well attended; they also made it a point to have interesting subjects portrayed in connection with their meetings to make them of interest to the architects. In general, District No. 6 was getting along very nicely. Mr. Brielmaier stated that we should set up the affairs and doings of the Madison District as an example for the other districts to follow.

The hour getting late and there being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 P. M.

ARTHUR L. SEIDENSCHWARTZ,
Secretary.

SIXTH DISTRICT NEWS

May 6, 1936. Meeting held at the University Club, Madison.

The following members were present: Ellis J. Potter, Joseph G. Durant, August Nerlinger, Paul Nystrom, Grover Lippert, E. J. Law, L. W. Oliver, Martin Schneider, Carl Sheldon, John Flad, Lewis Siberz, Arthur Peabody, Henry Dysland, Henry Loeprich.

Mr. R. A. Messner and Mr. W. G. Wendland, representatives of Johns-Manville Company, attended as guests.

Immediately after dinner President Ellis J. Potter introduced the guests, who presented moving pictures of 40 point house. The pictures were extremely interesting and well received, as was an exhibit of Johns-Manville products. Mr. Wendland answered questions pertaining to materials and construction details.

John Flad's motion that the Sixth District hold a picnic meeting in June was carried.

John Flad made a motion, seconded by Grover Lippert, that the secretary notify all members of the Sixth District that the approval of plans for the purpose of obtaining building permits or the applying of seal to plans which have not been prepared under the personal supervision of the respective architects are violations of the law and will be prosecuted under the law.

June 9, 1936. Meeting held at Blackhawk Country Club, Madison.

The following members were present: Ellis J. Potter, L. W. Oliver, E. J. Law, Carl Sheldon, E. W. Rupinski, Paul Bernard, A. F. Gallistel, Martin Schneider, Phil Homer, Frank Riley, Mr. Samuelson, Paul Nystrom, August Nerlinger, Myron Pugh, John Flad.

Henry Loeprich.

After dinner A. F. Gallistel read a paper on "Disintegration of Masonry Walls." As Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds at the University of Wisconsin, Mr. Gallistel had made a thorough study of the disintegration of University buildings and, consequently, was well qualified to present this subject. An interesting discussion followed the reading.

HENRY LOEPRICH, Secretary.

(Continued from page 3)

daylight and at the same time provide privacy that is a pleasant seclusion.

Used as exterior walls, interior partitions, panels or pillars, glass blocks distribute diffused light throughout the home, factory or store, transmitting as much as 86.5 per cent of the light falling upon their outside surface. On the other hand, the quantity of light transfusion may be reduced to as low as 11.7 per cent.

To the additional credit of glass blocks are their light diffusing properties which prevent transmission of glaring and "spotty" sun rays that are detrimental to the eyes.

Shadowed corners, common in most rooms, may be brightened with glass block corner panels if a complete glass masonry partition or wall is not desired.

Glass block exterior walls for stairway sections of the home, apartment building, school or public building is an economical application in that they reduce the cost of artificial lighting during the day. At night an exterior decorative effect results from interior illumination.

In New York City and other metropolitan centers where dark, gloomy walls are often necessitated by

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crowded conditions, daylight at last is finding its way to such abodes through the use of translucent glass masonry.

In Florida, where hurricanes frequently cause havoc, glass blocks have withstood the most severe wind velocity test, gaining for them recognition as a real safeguard against loss of life and property damage. Used as an exterior wall in the stairway section of the Coburn Country Day School at Miami Beach, to afford daylighted stairways for the students, glass blocks remained firm while other sections of the building were wrecked by a 130-mile an hour gale in a hurricane that swept across Florida last fall.

On the west coast motion picture producers are considering construction of glass block sound stages because of the light transmitting and sound proofing properties of this new material.

The Reynolds Tobacco Company is constructing a new tobacco warehouse at Winston-Salem, N. C., entirely of glass blocks. A grain mill of glass blocks is being built by the Nebraska Consolidated Mills at Grand Island, Neb. The Pet Dairy Products Company is using this material in the construction of a new dairy plant at Johnson City, Tenn., and glass masonry was used extensively in two new apartment buildings at Miami Beach, Fla.—the Forde Ocean Villa and the Pinecrest Apartments.

Many industrial plants throughout the nation are being remodeled with glass block specified in large quantities. More than 18,000 of these blocks are being used in the \$2,000,000 building program now under way at the Toledo Zoological Gardens, including a trout stream with glass block banks. These glass block banks will be back-lighted, thus illuminating the entire stream.

New school buildings now being built or planned in St. Louis, Bloomington, Ind., Ashley, N. D., Chillicothe, Ill., Milwaukee, Indianapolis and several other cities include the use of glass masonry.

Tests made by Purdue University have revealed almost amazing properties in this new material. Insulux glass blocks developed by Owens-Illinois showed a maximum strength sufficient to uphold the Washington monument if they were to be built as a single course in the walls of that 555-foot shaft.

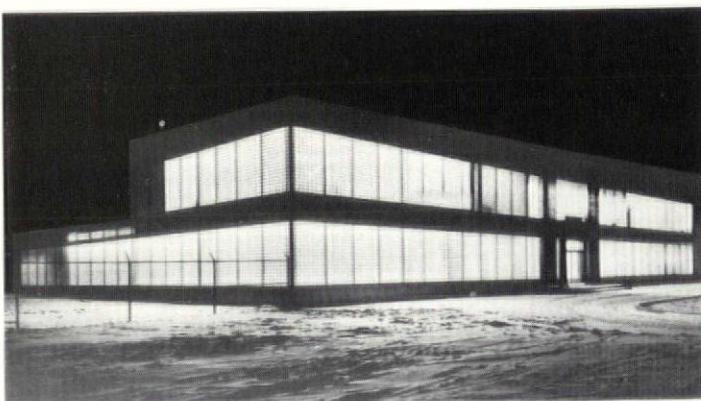
A wall of these hollow glass blocks has also great lateral strength. A panel of bonded blocks eight feet, seven inches high and seven feet, three inches wide, held a pressure of 160 pounds per square foot, which is equivalent to a wind velocity of about 230 miles an hour.

The insulux glass blocks are hollow. Air in the hollow block is trapped at a high temperature. When the block is cooled, it contains only thoroughly dry air under partial vacuum of from 40 to 60 per cent, the rarefied, dead air forming an excellent insulator against penetration of heat and cold.

Another test revealed that this glass masonry reduces temperature, due to direct sun rays, of an enclosed space from 25 to 40 per cent as compared with an equal area of single glazed steel sash for the mid-day period of four hours. Tests further showed that glass blocks practically eliminate condensation on the inside walls with no "sweating" occurring when outside temperature was 16 degrees below zero with an inside temperature of 70 degrees and 40 per cent humidity.

Other utility advantages of glass blocks are their resistance to fire, and protection against attacks of all vermin, including the destructive termite. Too, glass block walls will not absorb odor or grease, and keep out moisture.

This new glass masonry is not classed as a luxury, as one uninformed might think. In fact, it is lower in cost than other masonry construction and compares favorably with costs of ordinary good quality construction material.



The possibilities of glass block buildings in night advertising and new merchandising ideas are endless. This night photograph shows the new glass Packaging Research Laboratory of the Owens-Illinois Glass Company in Toledo. The building, completed January 15, is the world's first all-glass, windowless structure. The blocks are translucent but not transparent, enabling the elimination of solid wall surfaces without sacrificing privacy. As much as 86.5 per cent of exterior light can be transmitted by such block, the rays perfectly diffused.

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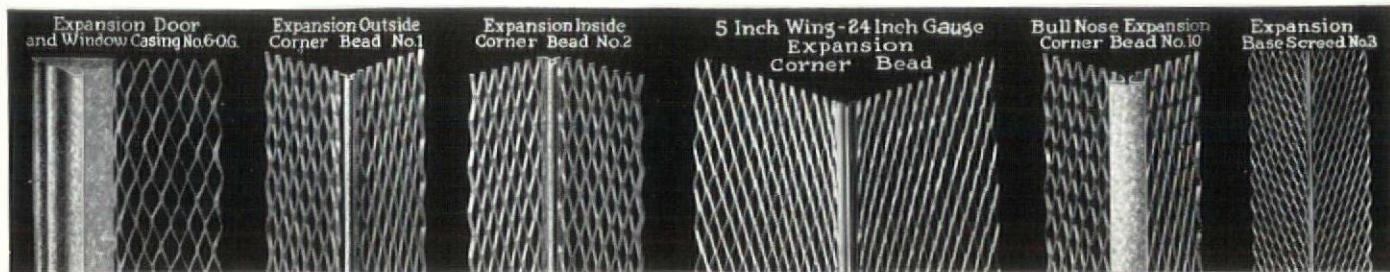
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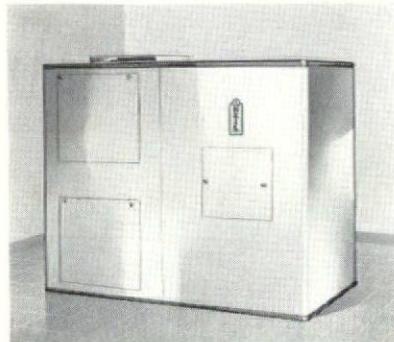
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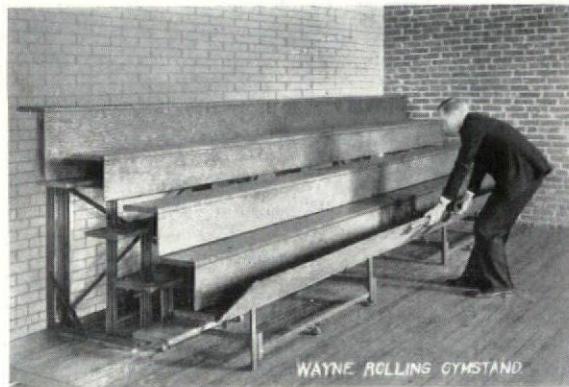
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